

Hillsdale County Great Start Collaborative

Meeting Minutes from 5/05/09

Attendees: Ginelle Skinner GS Coordinator, Sandra Corbin GS/Early On, Tashia Myers HCCCA, Jane Sanderson HCSSC, Andrea Bricker CHA Healthy Beginnings, Laurie Brandes HSN, Laura Nye DHS, Lois Foster HCS, John Ciaravino Executive Director HCISD, Sharon Roberts HCISD Early On Coordinator, Stacy Vondra Hillsdale College, Rod Mesarosh Parent, Cynthia Rowe CAA, Maxine Vanderberg CAA, Valorie Newton CHA, Lois Wolf Parent, Alice Perks Parent, Lisa Tinkey Parent Liaison, Nedene Monforton, Amber Riderman Kinship Care, Charity Taylor Parent, Lisa Walrey, Lori Bush Child Care Network, and Cathy Ceesk Parent.

During sign in, participants were offered a folder containing their community and state information pertaining to their sub committee placement. Community information and Great Start promotional items were also available (pens, chip clips, and band aid dispensers). The meeting started with Cynthia Rowe Great Start President, asking attendees to introduce themselves and for the local agencies to offer information about their upcoming events. We were all happy to see some new faces and more parent representation.

Ginelle Skinner, Great Start Coordinator provided an update regarding the development of the Great Start Collaborative web site. She showed on the large screen some of the pages that are complete and some of the features of the site. Lisa Tinkey, Parent Liaison, provided a report of the progress of the Parent Coalition's first meeting. The meeting was a success and the location was excellent (thanks CAA). Some topics that the parents expressed interest in were sibling rivalry, discipline, and recreational opportunities for children. The Operational Guidelines were passed out following revisions discussed from our last meeting. A vote was called and the guidelines were approved by the group. Ginelle informed attendees about the upcoming Star Power Rally at the Capital in Lansing and offered transportation assistance to anyone who was interested in attending. A petition was passed around for signing that simply acknowledges a support for needs of young children in our county. These signatures will be presented to our local representatives at the Rally on May 21st. The Great Start Coordinator Ginelle Skinner, and Parent Liaison Lisa Tinkey reported on their visits to gather community data from local families by visiting Kinship Care, Play Groups, and some Child Care Homes and Centers. Collaborative

members also suggested attending PTO meetings, father groups and couples groups. Ginelle showed some of other collaborative designs of “community report cards” and asked for thoughts about which design is the best for making our own local report card. Other business includes an announcement from CAA regarding approval for accreditation of some Head Start sites and more accreditation goals for the future. The subcommittees broke up into their small groups to discuss state and local data pertinent to their committee. The subcommittees are being asked to meet one more time before our next meeting in August with feedback regarding the data and thoughts about committee goals.

The meeting was adjourned with lunch provided to participants. The next meeting will be **August 3rd 2009 at 10:30 AM**. Meeting location is at the HCISD building 310 Bacon Rd. in the Conference room. Hope to see you there!